GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:181
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2003
PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN EDUCATION
RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to implement 'National Policy in regard to ensuring more participation of women in the field of education';

(b) if so, the time by which this is likely to be implemented;

(c) the main features of the policy;

(d) the criteria adopted for selecting universities for providing grants under the said policy; and

(e) the names of universities being considered or finally identified for the purpose of grants?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINIS OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha StarredQuestion No.181 asked by Shri RavindraKumar Pandey regarding Participation of Women in Education for reply on 4.3.2003
The Policy of the Government for empowerment and development ofwomen lays emphasis on removal of women's illiteracy and obstacles inhibiting their access to, and retention in elementary education, women's participation in vocational, technical and professional education at different levels coupled with the policy of non-discrimination to eliminate sex stereotyping in vocational & professional courses, promoting women's studies as a part of various courses, and encouraging educational institutions to take up active programmes to further women's development, and to promote women's participation in non traditional occupations as well as in existing and emerging technologies.

In pursuance of this policy, the Government have launched many programmes for the education and empowerment of women, as given below:-

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA):This programme, aims at universalisation of elementary education, with special focus on girls and other disadvantaged groups. In addition, the mid-day meal scheme, has also improved girls enrolment and retention in primary schools.

The proposed scheme of Kasturba Gandhi Swatantrata Vidyalaya ofresidential schools for girls would also support universalisation of elementary education for girls.

Mahila Samakhya: This is a women's education and empowerment project, being implemented in about 9000 villages. The programme strategy is to mobilize and organize women in the collectives called 'Sanghas' and through education make them aware of their rights.

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is also implementing schemes of residential schools for scheduled caste girls in areas of very low literacy as well as award of scholarships to SC/ST students with special emphasis on girls.

As a result of the measures taken by the Government, the literacy rate of women has gone up from 39.3 % in 1991 to 54.16% in 2001. In fact, the increase in female literacy of 14.8 percentage points outpaced that for male literacy of 11.7 percentage points. Similarly, the gender gap in male female literacy has also narrowed from 24.84 percentage points in 1991 to 21.70 percentage points in 2001. There has been a similar narrowing of the rural-urban literacy gap among women. This level was 33.43 percentage points in 1991 and now measures 26.41 percentage points in 2001.

Despite the increase in population, for the first time, the absolute number of illiterates has shown a decline, from 328 million in 1991 to 296 million. The female literacy rate has gone up from 50% in 1997 (as per the NSSO Survey) to 54.16 % in census 2001.

UGC Schemes for women education

- Setting up of Centres and Cells by UGC for Women studies
- A scheme of Technology courses for women in women universities for under-graduate courses in Engineering and Technology,
- Part-time Research Associateships for women
- Special Scheme for construction of Women's Hostels.
- Financial Assistance to women's colleges (50 years old) for purchase of books, journals and equipment.
- Day care centres setup in 17 universities.

The women's enrolment in Universities / Colleges is currently 39.84 %. Besides, there are 5 exclusive Women's Universities and 1578 women's colleges, of which 219 were opened during the last 3 years.

The education of women and girls continues to be an area of major emphasis area in IGNOU programmes and projects.

The Department of Science & Technology's Women Scientists Scheme, which has been recently launched, is aimed at providing opportunities to women scientists and technologists for pursuing research, with or without break in their career, in frontier areas of science & engineering, society related scientific problems and also for training for S&T based self-employment. There is another scheme of National Women Bio-Scientist's award, which was started by the Department of Bio-Technology in 1999.5 awards were given to women under this scheme last year.

Scheme of strengthening of boarding and hostel facilities for girl students of secondary and higher secondary schools. Under this scheme financial assistance is given for strengthening of Boarding & Hostel facilities for girls studying from classes VI to XII. Preference is given to educationally backward districts, particularly to those inhabited by SCs/STs.

Community/Polytechnics for women. The scheme of Community polytechnics for women aims at bringing community and rural development through science & technology applications and through skill oriented non-formal training.

Under the Women's Vocational Training Programme, institutionalized skill training is offered to women in basic, advanced and post advanced skills. There are 323 Women Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) affiliated to the Directorate General of Employment & Training. A provision for 25% of seats for women in General ITIs has also been recommended by Director General of Employment & Training.

In addition to the schemes mentioned above, the Government is in the process of formulating a scheme, for ensuring greater participation of women in higher education. The components of the scheme are being finalized.